

Grants, NM - Wednesday, Congressman Harry Teague announced over \$9.8 million in funding that will go towards training for green energy jobs in the southwest and across the country. Two grants, allocated through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's Green Jobs Training Program, were awarded to the International Training Institute for the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Industry and the Austin Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee. The grant recipients will sponsor renewable energy training programs in select cities, including Las Cruces.

"Not only has Recovery Act funding put southern New Mexicans back to work, but grants like these invest in green industries for the long term," said Congressman Harry Teague. "New Mexico has always been a leader in producing America's energy and this training will kick start green jobs is essential to boosting employment across all energy fields. I look forward staying in contact with the program to keep constituents informed when opportunities become available in southern New Mexico."

Combined, the two grants aim to train 2,200 unemployed and incumbent workers and place or retain 672 workers in sustainable employment. Training efforts will be located in New Mexico, Texas, Michigan, Ohio, Missouri, Illinois, California, Arizona, Oklahoma and Kansas. The programs are focused on Energy-Efficiency Building Construction and Retrofitting and Renewable Electric Power. More details on the specifics of the training programs in each area will be available as they develop.

“Our outstanding award recipients were selected because their proposed projects will connect workers to career pathways in green industries and occupations through diverse partnerships,” said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis.

The Energy Training Partnership grant program provides training for workers that prepares them to enter the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries, as well as green occupations within other industries. These grants are part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) to preserve and create jobs, promote the nation’s economic recovery, and assist those most impacted by the recession.

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